

The long structure to the left is the new \$4,000,000 Educational Building.

firemen are to-night still pouring water

BLAMES COMMISSIONER

State Historian Says He Opposed

Placing Records in a Fire-

proof Place.

Albany, March 29.-Victor Hugo Paltsits,

Draper. Mr. Paltsits says Commissioner

For years these priceless records had

been crowded into one of the most inade-

furnishings of their resting place were of

Engineer Describes Precautions

Taken Against Fire.

The precautions against fire occurring in

the New York Public Library, where ac-

commodations for three million books hav

been planned by Carrère & Hastings, the

outlined to a Tribune reporter by Owen

Mr. Brainard added that there was not a

fireproof, with shelving and cases made

entirely of iron and steel. The great stair-

ways are of solid masonry or of steel. All

FIRE BENEFIT ON APRIL 7.

the ravages of fire. He adds:

headquarters in various buildings near portion of the Capitol have suffered more

Speaking of the fire to-night, Governor Dix said:

"It is an appalling disaster. I consider the destruction of the state library diately thereunder. a national loss. Fortunately the copies Mr. Ware also stated that in company into the fireswept west frontage of the of Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proc- with his deputy, Charles A. Sussdorff, he lamation and General Washington's fare- bad taken observations on the exterior well address were removed not long ago tower walls with a transit in order to from the library to the safe in Commis- determine whether the fire caused any sioner Draper's office,"

mated the loss to his department alone those which were obtained the indicaat \$2,000,000. Work on the new build- tions are that the walls are practically ing of education in Washington street, as plumb as when built. across from the Capitol, which for a partment.

After a conference with Governor Dix this morning Adjutant General Verbeck | Dwight L. Goewey, who has been for the military arm of the state. Lieuten- Assembly, discovered the fire. His work ant Colonel Allen L. Reagan was placed keeps him most of the time in the Asin charge, and he at once called upon sembly judiciary room. He remained Major Charles B. Statts for troops. Sev- there after the Democratic caucus last eral of the local companies established night. headquarters in some of the national Mr. Goewey said he left the room about guard rooms which were the least dam- 2:30 o'clock, and was gone about half an practically no ventilation and subjected to the Senate Chamber stands practically unaged. Soldiers were soon patrolling all hour. the corridors and entrances to the Capi- smoke, and, looking about, saw part of tol, and no one was allowed inside unless the woodwork near a bookcase ablaze. he had a pass, signed by the military au- He thinks defective insulation of an electhorities or the Governor's secretary.

The fire started shortly after 2 o'clock | fire. able rapidity. Chief Bridgeford of the the fire was under control at 11 a. m.

Ruins Still Smouldering. The ruins of the western wing were

still smouldering late to-night and firemen were still pouring several streams State Library.

The exact cause of the fire has not been determined. It may never be known. Some of the officials believe in its incipience if there had been any exthat it was caused by defective electric wiring. The electrical engineer in charge at hand. of the building, Boon, says that the electric wiring and equipment in that part to confine the fire to the third floor, but large water tanks in the attic, and are of the building were all right.

Employes connected with the department of the Superintendent of Buildings ere of the opinion that it was caused by a lighted cigarette butt thrown among some papers in the Assembly library by some one who had attended the Democratic caucus last night. The caucus lasted until nearly 1 o'clock, and there were men about the Assembly chamber and the adjoining rooms until nearly 2 o'clock.

A rigid investigation will be instituted by Governor Dix to determine the cause. The investigation probably will be conducted by the Legislature.

The flames spread with such rapidity that even before the arrival of the firemen they had swept out through the corridors of the State Library and great tongues of flame were soon shooting out all the windows on the third floor on the western side of the building. The wooden partitions in the library proved excellent fuel for the blaze, which quickly ate its way up to the fourth floor.

Franklin B. Ware, the State Architect, Issued the following statement to-night:

The first step to be taken is to have the Legislature authorize proper state officials to remove all damaged and dangerous portions of the building and clean articles of value as they could out all rubbish. The Legislature should also immediately authorize the prepara-tion of plans and the making of necestion of plans and the making of neces-sary contracts for the reconstruction, who are on night duty at the Capitol, and ample funds should be provided in and several of them soon reached the order that those having the matter in Capitol to look after the books and rec-charge will not be hindered or delayed in the completion of the work. After ords in their departments. this is done a complete survey can be made and necessary plans and specifica-tions prepared for the restoration of the peared at the Capitol during the early building and for replanning the interior

made this afternoon it would appear that the entire State Library, located in ords were returned, as it was seen that the third and fourth floors, including the the Governor's rooms were not in the northwest and southwest pavillons, is danger zone.
completely destroyed and also the Court During the forenoon the Governor of Claims and some of the committee rooms of the Senate and Assembly.

During the forenon the forenon

The western side of the Assembly ment into conference as to the safety of the western including the ceiling, has suf-fered a slight fire damage and consider- the Governor that the walls, with the able water damage. It is impossible, at this time, to determine the condition of suffered damage principally at the fourth the terrific heat, and tumbled into the and fifth floors. Many departments on street, it was thought that the stability the first and second floors in the western

Hunyadi Janos Natural Laxative Water Speedy Centie Oulckly Relieves CONSTIPATION

om water than from fire. On account of the dangerous condition of some of the interior walls and dormers throughout the western section, it would be inadvisable to use the offices imme-

bulge or deflection in the masonry. The Commissioner Draper, head of the smoke being dense, it was impossible State Department of Education, esti- to obtain accurate results, but from

State Historian, issued a statement to-night This is undoubtedly due to the mastime was threatened by the flames, will sive brick and granite construction. The laying the blame for the "irreparable loss" be pushed to afford a home for that dethe granite than it had on the brick.

No Extinguishers at Hand.

Draper constantly blocked the way for took over the control of the Capitol with seventeen years a proofreader in the legislation urged by the State Historian to have the records placed in the latter's keeping, where Mr. Paltsits says they would have been properly preserved from quate rooms of the Capitol-a room with

When he returned he smelled tric light wire at that point started the He ran out into the corridor and PUBLIC LIBRARY PROTECTED this morning in the library of the As- gave the alarm. Nearly every one had sembly, which is used as a committee left the Capitol except two New York The flames spread with remark- newspaper correspondents. The three men ran back to the room, but could do Albany Fire Department announced that nothing to stop the blaze. It had spread too rapidly.

John Mullen, the watchman on the Washington avenue side of the building architects at No. 225 Fifth avenue, were was on the third floor when Goewey cried "fire," and one look into the As- Brainard, chief engineer in charge of consembly judiciary room convinced him of water in though the blackened win- that it was a job for the fire department. dows which once looked out from the He ran out to the street, and sent in the fire in the New York Public Library he alarm. Goewey and the others, who would have to take into the building the were first on the scene, said that they material with which to do so, unless he believed they could have stopped the fire Brainard. tinguishers or other preventive apparatus system of standpipes, with long lines of

> The firemen made a strenuous effort pipes are under constant pressure from the intense heat drove them back from connected at the bottom to heavy duplicate their positions inside the building and steam pumps especially arranged for fire their positions inside the building and the water from the outside could not in that building that could properly be folreach the flames

lowed. We did not install automatic Chief Bridgeford and fifty firemen sprinklers, fearing the loss that might through the smoke to attack the fire the sprinkler system when there was where it burned most fiercely in the fire needing attention. The best sprinkler papers. system is apt to spring a-leak. The whole state library. Several of the firemen were overcome building is protected by a system of fire

by the smoke and had to be carried alarms connected with the engine room, from the building before the rest were and the complete watchman service will finally driven out by the terrible heat in Mr. Brainard added that there was not that part of the structure. The ambu- single wood supporting member in the lilance surgeons on hard treated many brary building, and that only a very small RELIEF FUND ALMOST \$50,000 of business keeps a big clerical force at firemen on the spot. Three firemen were amount of wood had been used in the conbadly cut and bruised by falling glass struction, and that for doors. All of that and stone and were taken to the hos- great part of the building devoted to the pital. Their injuries are said not to be storage of books, he said, was completely

Employes Storm the Building.

A crowd of several thousand persons of the vertical supports in the building, exspite the efforts of the police to hold fireproof. the crowds in check, hundreds of employes of the various departments broke through the lines and rushed into the smoke filled building and made their way to their offices and began to remove such

reached on the telephone by the orderlies fire.

Secretary Mason and others of the of the peared at the Capitol during the early meet the demands of the various state progress of the fire and removed various records from the offices of the Chief From an examination of the building Executive. Later in the forenoon the rec-

The ceiling of the Senate appears to be intact, with apparently no damage. except from water.

Ware, the Chief of Police, Mr. Hyatt, and Chief Bridgeford of the Fire Department, into conference as to the sufety of possible exception of some places on the western side of the building, were not ne ceiling. An examination of it will western side of the building, were not affected. Though great blocks of granite western staircase appears to have in these walls split under the action of of the walls had not been shaken

The spectacle the fire furnished on Capitol Hill during the hours before daylight will long be remembered by the citizens of Albany. The capitol stands in a conspicuous position on the top of the highest hill in the city. The flames at times shot up two hundred feet into the night sky, and fairly illuminated the whole city. The brilliant light from the fire could be seen for miles around.

With a strong wind blowing from the north, the blaze leaped in the direction of the centre of the city and away from the new building of education across Washington avenue. That was the only thing that saved it, the firemen said.

Thousands of sightseers thronged the

allowed in the building without a pass. In drizzling rain, which vividly brings

Will Restore the Capitol.

Albany, March 29.-Five million dollars fire in the State Capitol to-day, but money cannot restore the historical records which were the pride of its State Library.

After examining the exterior walls with a transit, State Architect Ware declared to-night that the massive pile of granite was as plumb and true as ever, and that the loss would be no greater than appeared

the Court of Claims, the Assembly library locuments destroyed by the fire upon the and document rooms, most of the offices of Commissioner of Education, Andrew S. the Excise Department and the quarters of the Senate Finance Committee, and water and smoke took up the work that the flames laid down, and the damage from this cause extends to every part of the building. Next to the destruction of historic rec-

of the fire will be inevitable delay in the machinery of state government. Although heat and stuffiness. All the shelves and store the meeting place of the lower house wood, a veritable tomb of timber, which to its former heauty, a week or longer could not have withstood fire from within may intervene before legislative business can proceed in its accustomed channels.

> here. Such a recess was expected if the food for flames. senatorship tangle could be unravelled to-

mon Council chamber and the Assembly in the county court room, where the joint office. session also was held, and the same arrangement will be followed to-morrow. state carried no insurance.

Capitol building had been regarded as abidea imbedded in the minds of most Al- proof vaults, although the department has banians that when they were roused from a vault in the Hall of Records, where some burned some of the books." said Mr. "The building is completely guarded by a look for a spectacular fire at the North guarding the almost priceless documents connected hose on each floor. These stand-

and Lincoln relics in the custody of the Fulton street, Jamaica, a spark is all that Education Department were in the big would be required to repeat on a smaller safe on the ground floor and were unin- scale the loss in documents destroyed by script of Washington's farewell address. Since the organization of Queens County the original of Lincoln's Emancipation more than two hundred years ago, docucrawled up the great western staircase occur at any time through the operation of

> dealing with the history of South Carolina of different board meetings and the records during the Revolution. At the request of of sales, transfers and other business of that state, a bill was pending in the Legia- the county were kept in a small ledger ature here to permit the department to about the size of a petty cash book of toturn them over to their original possessor. day, official records of the county have

ceived to Red Cross Fund.

Cross, announced last night that a total of \$15.812.52 had been received for the fire 28. Up to last evening the Mayor had recrived a total of \$13,779.85.

Messrs Lee and J J. Shubert, Lew Fields, Schuff yesterday was \$2,500 from the Met-William A. Brady, Liebler & Co., Henry ropolitan Life Insurance Company for the

State Architect Says That Sum City's Archives Exposed Recklessly to Visitation of Fire.

probably could repair the damage done by destruction by fire for many valuable city ments. The only city building of modern fireproof construction is the Hall of Records. As the new municipal building will be ready for occupancy within two years it would hardly pay to provide expensive fireproof vaults for departments that will be housed in the new building.

Robert B. Insley, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Offices, said yesterday that he intended to recommend the installation of devices which would aid in the quick detection of any fire that might occur in any of the buildings.

also some kind of automatic fire alarm. only the constitutional requirement of are supposed to be safe from fire. There taking a daily ballot until a United States still remains in the Courthouse, however, a

Up to recently there was no firepro vault in the City Hall, but within the last Both houses met to-day in the City Hall, few months such a vault, about twenty

solutely fireproof, and so firmly was this Finance Department which are not in firesleep early this morning and told that the of the records are kept. The city has never

state constitution and the Major André rare historical documents and relics in the way of grants and purchases of land from Among the documents lost were records | Indians. From the day when the minutes been on the increase, until now the volume work. Under the old fee system the County Clerk makes between \$45,000 and \$50,000 a important records and relics of great value Jacob H. Schiff Adds What Mayor Re- year, and there have been years when his from a sentimental standpoint, was founded

George Buchanan, who has been superin-

REPAIR COST, \$5,000,000 RECORDS INVITE FLAMES

The flames licked up the state library.

ords and the financial loss, the chief effect There was talk to-night of a recess, and

is chosen keeps the legislators

Capitol was afire they laughed and ex- carried any fire insurance. pressed the belief that you might as well No provision has been made for safe-

These include the original manu- the burning of the State Capitol.

Jacob H. Schiff, treasurer of the Red

This amount includes \$7,942.50 The largest contribution received by Mr.

"There have never been any fire alarms

in the public buildings, either automatic or private boxes, that can be pulled by whoever discovers a tire," said Superintendent "I have done already what I could in guarding the buildings by increasing my staff of watchmen; but you cannot be sure that watchmen patrol carefully unless you have watchmen's clocks, which record their tion for the installation of such clocks, and Many of the most valuable records of the Supreme Court and of the county have been removed to the Hall of Records, where they mass of records which would furnish fine

cross a short stretch of park from the feet square, has been constructed in the Capitol building, the Senate in the Com- basement. In this are kept the valuable records and documents of the Mayor's A fireproof vault has been constructed re-

cently in the Jefferson Market court build-There are many valuable records of the

priceless Colonial and Washington the old-fashioned County Clerk's office, in

fees netted \$50,000 a year.

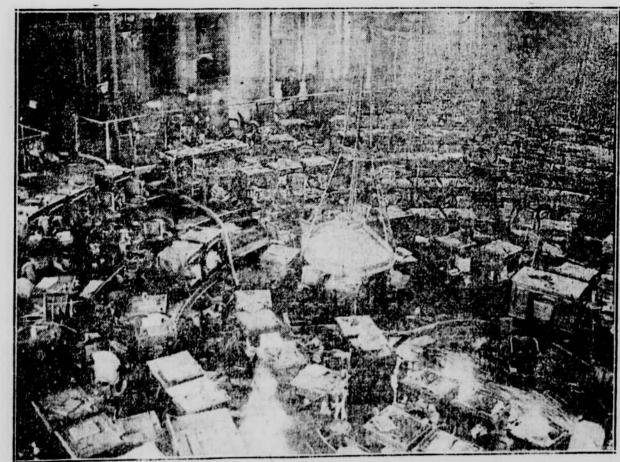
The fire which destroyed so many his-Brooklyn as to the manner in which the Kent.

tendent of the building for many years,

and records of Queens County. Housed in

metal boxes, which are ranged, according

EFFECT OF THE FIRE IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.



The great chandelier fell from the notorious papier-mache ceiling to the floor. (Photograph by Paul Thompson.)

CAPITOL COST \$27,000,000

Work Begun on the Great Building in 1867.

CONSTRUCTION A SCANDAL

When Completed It Had Cost Two and a Half Times That of Capitol at Washington.

The present state capital building at Albany had been in some stage of construc-

It was in 1797 that the state Legislature Proadway and Hudson avenue. moved to the old Capitol on State Street Hill. In 1860 was begun agitation for a new building. In 1863 a committee was appointed and plans submitted, but two years more passed before any action was taken. It was not till December 9, 1867, that work was actually begun, with the first shovelful of earth from an excavation at Hawk and State streets.

In the spring of 1868 \$250,000 more was appropriated and to the Capitol Commission was added James S. Thayer, Alonzo B. Cornell, William A. Rice, James Terwilliger and John T. Hudson. They were authorized to buy more land and after plans as long as the ultimate total cost should not exceed \$4,000,000. In case that limit should be passed the revised plans should be submitted to the Legislature for approval. In the spring of 1869 the enlarged plans

prepared by Fuller & Laver were finally approved by the Legislature, allowing the 000,000 limit to be passed, and on July of that year the first stone of the foundation was laid by John V. L. Pruyn. The cornerstone was laid on June 24, 1871. In 1883 the office of Capitol Commissioner

was created at a salary of \$7,000, and

Isaac G. Perry was appointed to the place. which he held for eleven years. Thomas Fuller, the old architect, had been succeeded in 1875 by an advisory board consisting of Frederick Law Olmsted, Leopold Eidlitz and Henry H. Richardson. Up to Italian renaissance. It was now modified to Romanesque, but work had gone only a little way along the new lines when the Legislature directed a return to the old plan. The result is known as free renaissance. The interior is largely the work of Henry H. Richardson, Leopold Eldlitz and Isaac G. Perry. Mr. Richardson lesigned the Senate Chamber, Mr. Elditz the Assembly Chamber, Eidlitz and Richardson the Court of Appeals and the Executive Chamber, and Isaac G. Perry the western stairway and the northeastern stairway. Mr. Perry also designed the eastern approach to the Capitol and the western facade.

The total cost of the building and land up to September 20, 1899, was \$24,265,082.67 It is estimated that sums spent since in completing details and repairing defects bring the total to \$27,000,000. Many charges of graft have been made in connection with this expenditure, but no prosecutions have ever resulted. The new building was first occupied by

the Legislature on January 7, 1879. The structure stands 155 feet above the level of the Hudson. It is 400 feet long and 300 feet wide, covering in all three acres. Its walls, of solid white granite, rise 108 feet. In the centre is a court 137 by 92 feet. Above are red-capped towers. The Governor's room, in the southeastern

corner, is walnscoted to the height of 15 feet with mahogany, and from there to the celling are hangings of Spanish leather. On the third floor are the Senate and Assembly chambers, connected by a corridor lined and vaulted with gray sandstone, with sandstone columns in the centre. In the Assembly chamber was originally a stone ceiling, but this proving unstable there was substituted for it the famous ceiling of oak and papier maché. But one of the most magnificent rooms in the building, and the one whose loss, with its contents, is greatest because largely irreparable, is the State Library, extending completely across the western wing

on the third floor. In a central hall, which had a high ceiling painted with flying with garlands, were chairs and tables for readers. Here was the central administration of the library, where reference books and other books could be obtained from the librarians. The State Library had 167,000 volumes. Part of these were law books. The law library occupied the northern wing of the State Library, while the south wing was used for the books of general literature. oak book shelves and steps and mezzanine floors in all of the library were of great beauty. The State Library, which contained many

in 1818, with a collection of six hundred volumes. De Witt Clinton was one of the teric papers in the State Capitol caused original board of trustees. His colleagues some inquiries to be made yesterday in were Governor John Tayler and James The following year, in compliance gathered on Capitol Hill within a short time after the fire was discovered. Described to the process of the pro the Colonial Assemblies, enacted between 1683 and 1691, were not in print and were said last evening the records are kept in supposed to be lost. However, a manuscript copy of these laws was found, together to numbers, in metal cases. The doors and with the original charter from Charles II to their offices and began to remove such articles of value as they could

The heads of departments were soon reached on the telephone by the orderlies who are on night duty at the Capital. laws of other states. Many of the early Dutch records were missing, however. Governor De Witt Clinton thereupon caused the Dutch records to be translated, and intwenty-six volumes, known as the Albany Records, were added to the library. 1853 the Legislature purchased and bound

> Other valuable records, manuscripts and relies, added from time to time and now destroyed, were the papers of Sir William Johnson, the Van Rensselaer papers, the early Indian treatles and many historic indian trophies; the Andre papers, with a sketch of the river made by Andre; many Washington relies, including a lock of Washington's hair; a sword presented to him by Frederick the Great; a pair of pistols given him by Lafayette, Washington's confidential estimate of his officers when starting on the Ohio campaign in the French and Indian War, his surveying instruments and other curios. In the reading room were busts and

the original twenty-three volumes of the

public papers of George Clinton, first Gov-

paintings of great men and women done by masters, all totally destroyed. The law section of the library was considered by many the most complete in the country. Fortunately the text of some of the most valuable manuscripts have been preserved

by publication. By a law passed in 1895 the office of state historian was created, and to that office Hugh Hartings was appointed. He served till 1907. During his administration there were edited and pubeight volumes of Clinton papers, three vol. ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS umes of Daniel Tempkins papers, six volumes of ecclesiastical records, four vol. No. 1261 Breadway, between 36th and 37th size. umes of the Council of Appointment Min-utes, one volume on New York and the Spanish War, six volumes of Sir William Johnson papers, and two volumes of Gen- st. eral Peter Gansevoort's papers.

be an irreparable loss.

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